Interstate accords through the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) have helped in the second half of the twentieth century to open up borders. These accords resulted in considerable reductions in customs duties and quotas which before 1948 inhibited cross-border trade.(GATT was replaced by the World Trade Organisation, WTO an Intergovernmental Organisation founded in 1995 to supervise and promote international trade.) By enforcing existing trade agreements, the WTO has brought about liberalisation in matters such as telecommunications, shipping and investment flows. Cross-border trade made a marked increase in the late nineteenth century.

Borders have also been opened to facilitate money flows. A gold-dollar standard became operational through the International Monetary Fund (IMF). According to this regime, major currencies could circulate in the free world and be converted to local monies at an officially fixed exchange rate. (The IMF was founded in 1944 at the Brenton Woods Conference for the purpose of overseeing global rules governing money and currency regulations. In recent times it has taken upon itself the responsibility for providing technical advice, economic direction and financial loans for countries in the developing world).

Among the cross-border transactions can be included the flow of foreign investments both direct and portfolio.(Direct investments are fixed assets like research facilities and factories and portfolio investments are liquid assets like loans and bonds.) Direct investments have proved to be a boon to developing countries and they have been able to attract multinational companies (MNCs). (MNCs are corporations functioning in several different countries.) Among the developments in respect of portfolio investments may be included permission for non-residents to hold bank accounts in another state and participation in a country's financial markets by externally based banks.

The second half of the twentieth century has also ...essed transborder production or the spreading of the ...ent stages of production process across different locations. ...head of Levi describes a global production operation:

> Our company buys denim in North Carolina, ships it to France where it is sewn into jeans, launders these in Belgium and markets them in Germany using TV commercials developed in England.

...me Critical Views

Although globalisation is hailed as the new stage in world ...itics and it is said to improve the lives of people, there are ...ese who consider it a myth. One main objection is that ...balisation is the latest phase of capitalism.The globalisation ...eory makes it appear that national governments are not ...owerful to face global trends. This inhibits national ...vernments in their attempts to control global economic forces ...d regulations. The current internationalised economy is ...t unique and it is less open than it was in the past. ...ternational companies are rare and many are national ...mpanies trading internationally. Critics of globalisation fail ... see the shift of capital from the developed to developing ...orld. Three blocks, namely, Europe, North America and Japan ...ve trade, investment and financial flows in their favour and, ... they co-ordinate policies, they can regulate global economic ...rkets and forces. Another objection to globalisation is that ... is the latest stage of Western imperialism and the virtues ...t are extolled are confined to the West and the Western ... view is pursued at the expense of non-Western values. ...ponents ask if the developed countries with their ...logies are not exploiting the less well-off nations in the ... of openness. Yet another objection is that the collapse ...e and space facilitates terrorist operations and smuggling ...ugs by drug cartels.